

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCCT-02 SY-04 A-01 OPR-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-12 COME-00

OMB-01 USSS-00 NIC-01 DRC-01 /143 W

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P 041452Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2985

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

CINCLANT

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 861

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PINS AO

SUBJ: ROCKET AND GRENADE EXPLOSION IN LUANDA

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

PRETORIA FOR RSO

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

ADDIS ABABA FOR RSS

1. ON THE NIGHTS OF OCT 2 AND 3 A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS TOOK

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PLACE NEAR A CROWDED MOVIE THEATRE, A BUSY AMUSEMENT PARK AND

AT THE AIRPORT. SEVERAL PEOPLE WERE REPORTED WOUNDED BUT NONE WERE KILLED.

2. THERE IS SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHAT TYPE OF WEAPONS WERE USED BUT, JUDGING BY A PHOTO OF A FRAGMENT SHOWN IN THE NEWS-PAPER, AT LEAST ONE WAS A RPG-7 (ROCKET PROPELLED GRENADE). THE ARMY THINKS THE OTHER EXPLOSIONS WERE CAUSED BY A 60MM MORTAR AND POSSIBLY GRENADES.

3. NO GROUP HAS YET CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BLASTS. THE USE OF A STANDARD COMMUNIST WEAPON LIKE THE RPG DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT A LIBERATION GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE, AS THE PORTUGUESE ARMY, FLECHAS AND OPVDCA (MILITIAS) HAVE CAPTURED LARGE NUMBERS OF THESE WEAPONS. AT NOON OCTOBER FOUR THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT "ACTIVIST" ELEMENTS WERE RESPONSIBLE, THUS ADMITTING IT HAD NO IDEA WHO DID IT. THE POPULATION IS TAKING THE EXPLOSIONS IN STRIDE, ALTHOUGH ONE OR TWO AMERICAN COMPANIES ARE NERVOUS AND TALKING ABOUT EVACUATION. WE ARE KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH ALL U.S. FIRMS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AS WE GET IT AND PREVENT RUMORS FROM SPREADING.

KILLORAN

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Message Attributes

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